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Report on Spanish S. S. Alfonso XIII and U. S. transport Chester.

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, *February 12, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that the Spanish steamer *Alfonso XIII*, with 157 crew and 1,713 Spanish soldiers, arrived at this port February 5, 1899. This vessel departed from Havana and touched at Cienfuegos, where the Spanish troops were embarked. Two deaths occurred at sea with a diagnosis of "acute anæmia," 59 sick on board, with a particularly bad sanitary condition.

The bill of health gave 4 cases of yellow fever and 2 deaths in Cienfuegos. The first idea was to order the vessel to proceed immediately to sea because some time ago, upon my advice, a cable was sent to the proper military authorities to request General Brooks not to allow this class of vessels to touch at Porto Rican ports, solely for sanitary reasons and the grave danger involved, but this restraint did not appear to have been imposed. The vessel was ordered out of the harbor until the following morning. There were 21 passengers for this port, and upon my assurance to General Henry that they could be safely placed upon the Calebras Island quarantine station for observation of and disinfection of baggage, this action was taken. Coal and water were supplied by lighter, under a patrol guard furnished by Commander Snow of the naval station, after which the vessel was directed to proceed to sea. There was considerable local opposition to the restraints imposed, but the matter was firmly handled, as a contrast to the loose methods which have hitherto prevailed, yellow fever having been undoubtedly introduced in this way in former years.

To-day I visited the quarantine station with Dr. Del Valle, and after a muster and inspection of the local passengers detained under observation, I ordered their release. They departed contented and satisfied with their treatment.

The United States transport *Chester* arrived at this port February 7, from Cienfuegos, where she had anchored 2 miles from the city. This vessel was unusually clean, took on no passengers or baggage at that port, and was in good sanitary condition, but was nevertheless detained in quarantine to complete the five-day period of observation. While inspecting this vessel between decks I accidentally stepped into an open coal hole, receiving some severe contusions and a broken rib, but am able to be about.

Respectfully, yours,

A. H. GLENNAN.
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

NOTE.—The *Alfonso XIII*, after leaving this port, put into St. Thomas, but was placed in strict quarantine.

Sanitary report from Porto Rico—Leprosy.

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, *February 14, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that the total number of deaths for the week ended February 11, 1899, was 24, 1 being from leprosy. A careful search through the city has led to the discovery of a dozen cases of this disease hidden in out-of-the-way places. The board of health is taking measures to have these cases segregated, but owing to the lack of cooperation by the alcalde the matter has been delayed. I visited one of these cases with the city health officer and found it to be leprosy and not syphilis, as claimed by the patient.

My inspections of the different ports of the island show that a system-

atic method of quarantine procedure is disregarded either through ignorance or design. I have therefore prepared a printed circular of instructions, which, through the cooperation of Capt. James A. Buchanan, Eleventh Infantry, collector of customs for Porto Rico, will be enforced at the different ports of the island.

It is printed in Spanish and English, and will be distributed by the local collectors of customs. Copy inclosed. I find that the pilots are probably immune.

Respectfully, yours,

A. H. GLENNAN,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

[Inclosure.]

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, *February 9, 1899.*

To pilots, masters, and consignees of vessels, and other persons concerned :

1. Pilots, on boarding vessels to conduct them into the harbor, must proceed immediately to the pilot deck and remain there.
2. They should immediately direct the yellow flag to be hoisted as a signal for inspection, whether the vessel has sickness on board or not.
3. In case the vessel comes from an infected port, or has sickness on board, she should lie as near as possible to the quarantine station, and blow the whistle 3 times as a signal for medical inspection at that place.
4. Pilots should instruct the masters of the vessels in every case that under no circumstances should they let down steam or disconnect the machinery until after inspection by the medical officer.
5. Pilots should remain on the vessel until permitted to go ashore by the health officer. No person should be allowed to come on board or leave the vessel before the inspection and decision of the inspecting officer.
6. Coastwise vessels having any sickness on board should display the yellow flag, and not approach the wharf until permitted by the health officer.

A. H. GLENNAN,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

JAS. A. BUCHANAN,
Captain, Eleventh Infantry, Collector of Customs for Porto Rico.